

# **ROCHESTER'S IMPENDING STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** **Part VI – As An Industry, How Can You Protect Water Quality?**

The following table presents situations that are examples of common problems that result in erosion control and storm water management concerns. These problems occur at the time of initial site development and when building construction begins (after the sale of individual lots). Ideas to minimize or correct each problem are also shown below.

<b>PROBLEMS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Absent or inadequate installations of Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as silt fences and temporary sedimentation basins at the onset of construction. This is especially commonplace at winter construction sites when completion before the onset of spring snowmelt or rainstorms is a gamble.</li> <li>☞ Individual lot erosion controls are not established and/or maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Select and install erosion controls best suited for the site's specific conditions (slopes, soil types, amount of un-vegetated area, etc.)</li> <li>☞ Install controls correctly, BEFORE earth moving activities start.</li> <li>☞ DON'T gamble on the hope of a rain-free or thaw-free construction period.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ No regular inspections or maintenance of erosion control BMPs. This often leads to erosion control failures during significant rain events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of ALL erosion controls and repair failures immediately.</li> <li>☞ Watch the weather and be sure your sites are buttoned-up before predicted rainstorms and snowmelt events.</li> <li>☞ Inspect all erosion controls after storm and snowmelt events and repair failures immediately.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Allowing sediment to accumulate beyond the design capacity of sedimentation basins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Read the approved grading plan to learn the basin's base elevation and stake the level that indicates the maximum allowable level of sediment accumulation.</li> <li>☞ When sediment reaches the staked level, excavate the sediment until the designed base elevation is reached.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Excessive sediment tracking into streets occurs because the construction trades use multiple access points to a site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Limit access to one point by installing a stabilized vehicle entrance for each construction area and building lot.</li> <li>☞ Sweep the streets when sediment has been tracked off the construction site and onto roads at the end of each day.</li> <li>☞ Install silt fence across lot frontages to control soil erosion and define site access.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Site grading does not complement grades on neighboring lots, resulting in new drainage and erosion problems for existing residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Have a copy of the approved grading plan on site, understand it, and stick to it! The City must approve ANY modifications to the grading plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Approved design grades for individual lots are altered during building construction causing drainage and erosion problems for neighbors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Set houses at the elevations noted on the approved grading plan.</li> <li>☞ If errors are found during construction, make corrections that will protect neighbors.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Utility installation is not coordinated with street or lot development (or even between utility companies), resulting in disturbances of previously stabilized areas. Often this happens without providing erosion control protection or re-establishing vegetation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Coordinate with utility companies to get them on site at a time that will cause the least additional disturbance.</li> <li>☞ Include requirements in utility permits that provide for adequate erosion control, re-grading to re-establish approved finish grades, and re-vegetation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ During construction, large distributed areas result in the loss of site soils.</li> <li>☞ After grading or construction is completed, soils are left exposed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Minimize the size of the working footprint.</li> <li>☞ Re-vegetate the disturbed site with seed or sod as soon after construction as possible. Stockpile and salvage the topsoil from the site, rather than wasting it elsewhere, and fertilize the seed or sod after placement.</li> <li>☞ Monitor the condition of the vegetation through at least one growing season to insure that adequate cover is established.</li> </ul>

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## 9 Protecting water quality is everybody's business.